



Department of Justice

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FEDERAL ARSON CHARGES

FILED AGAINST THREE WICHITA MEN

WICHITA, KAN. – Federal arson charges were filed Friday against three Wichita men in connection with a series of explosions in south Wichita.

Charged in a federal criminal complaint were Nathan L. Gunter, 18, Wichita, Kan.; Antonio J. Ray, 18, Wichita, Kan.; and Daniel Collins, 18, Wichita, Kan.

According to an investigator's affidavit filed with the court, the three were arrested at about 8:30 a.m. Friday when a Wichita police officer stopped their car.

Beginning at about 6:05 a.m. Friday, police received a series of reports of explosions. The first report was at 6:05 a.m. from Brooks Middle School.

The second report was made at 6:24 a.m. from inside an apartment building at 4909 E. Harry. Police responded to the call along with investigators from the Wichita Fire Department, the Kansas State Fire Marshal's office, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. They took pictures of structural damage to common areas of the building as well as damage to individual apartments.

The third report was made at 8:12 a.m. from 2732 S. Seneca. Witnesses reported seeing suspects leaving the area in a white Chevrolet Trailblazer. Investigators from the police department's bomb squad joined the other agencies to gather evidence at the scene.

If convicted, the defendants face a penalty of not less than 5 years and not more than 20 years on each count. Agencies involved in the investigation include the

Wichita Police Department, the Wichita Fire Department, the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Assistant U.S. Attorney Matt Treaster is prosecuting.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The indictments filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.

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